

OCCR/62/m

AIRGRAM

RHO05732205

DEPT. DISTRIBUTION				HANDLING		CLASSIFICATION		MESSAGE REFERENCE NO.	
ORIGIN/ACTION						Limited Official Use		A-07	
AF	ARA	BF/OB	CU	TO:		Department of State			
Q/HA	D/LOS	EA	EB			Amembassy The Hague			
EUR	FADRC/DR	FADRC/LR	FBO			Amembassy Caracas			
SCA	INR	IO	L	FROM:		Amconsul Curacao			
M/MO	MC	NEA	OES	E.O. 11652:		N/A			
PER	PM	PPT	S/IL	TAGS:		EAIR, EFIS, PBOR, PEPR, PLOS, NA, VE			
S/WM	S/P	S/PRS	S/S	SUBJECT:		Netherlands - Venezuela Boundary Treaty			
SCA	SCS	SY	VO	REF:					
Suggested Distribution				SUMMARY					
POST ROUTING				<p>On March 31 Venezuela and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concluded a treaty defining their respective territorial waters and economic zones. In the waters dividing the Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela the treaty line is near but not identical with the median line. Both sides conceded a little and got a little. North of the islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao the economic zone of the Antilles narrows progressively to give Venezuela a contiguous economic zone of 200 miles that would otherwise have been cut off by the joining of the Antillean and Colombian economic zones. With the entry into force of this treaty The Kingdom of the Netherlands, of which The Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles are parts, will then and thereafter claim a territorial sea of 12 miles rather than 3 miles, as heretofore.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>On March 31 Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and the Netherlands Antilles' Minister-President S.G.M. Rosendaal signed an agreement defining the boundaries of their respective countries' territorial waters and marine economic zones.</p>					
DRAFTED BY: GWPenberthy:jf				DRAFTING DATE: 04-04-78		PHONE NO.		CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: PO:GWPenberthy	
CLEARANCES									

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

A-07

2

The treaty now goes to the parliaments of The Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles, and Venezuela for approval. Rozendal expects that the treaty will be submitted to the legislative bodies shortly and that approval and entry into force will follow within six months.

In the course of the negotiations the negotiators for the Kingdom of The Netherlands announced an intention to claim a 12-mile territorial sea and, ultimately, archipelagic status for the ABC islands (Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao) of the Netherlands Antilles. Although the Kingdom of The Netherlands now claims a territorial sea of only 3 miles, the treaty was drafted with the intended later claims in mind. According to Dr. Eric Kleinmoedig, Director of the Netherlands Antilles' Bureau for Foreign Affairs, the Kingdom of The Netherlands will proceed to proclaim its claim to a 12-mile territorial sea at the time of declaring the coming into force of the present treaty. That is to say that, while the treaty relates only to the Netherlands Antilles and therefore to the territorial waters thereof, the new claim to a 12-mile territorial sea will also be effective in relation to the North Sea territorial waters of the Kingdom of The Netherlands.

Appended to the treaty are two maps showing the delimitation lines described in the body of the treaty. On the first map is a line defining the boundary between the ABC islands and Venezuela. This line only approximates the median line between the territories. Since the two countries now or henceforth will claim a 12-mile territorial sea, where the distance between the land masses is 24 miles or less the line defines the two countries' territorial waters. Where the distance between the two land masses is greater than 24 miles the line defines the two nations' economic zones.

Northward from the ABC islands the lines separating the economic zones of the two countries incline toward one another. Dr. Kleinmoedig explained that The Netherlands negotiators accepted this inclination for two reasons. First, the inclination of the lines makes for an equitable distribution of the economic zone seaward from the ABC islands, given the fact that the islands are separated from one another by open sea. Second, strict adherence to a median line on the western side would have meant that the Netherlands Antilles and Colombian economic zones would have met and closed off Venezuela altogether. In return for the area lost by the inward inclinations of the two northward lines, the Netherlands Antilles got 535,000 square kilometers of continental shelf in the Aruba area that the Venezuelans had been extremely reluctant to concede. Dr. Kleinmoedig said that these 535,000 square kilometers, which on the map are bounded by a rectangle of which points 2, 3, and

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

OPTIONAL FORM 247 (Rev. 6-76)
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
50747-102

GPO : 1977 O - 741-530 (1074)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

A-07

3

4 are three corners, contain all the sites of possible petroleum deposits known to Netherlands Antilles experts.

On the second map, in the upper right-hand quadrant, appears a short line connecting points numbered 14, 15, and 16. This line represents the boundary between the economic zones extending north from the Venezuelan island of Aves and south from the Netherlands' Windward Islands, St. Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius.

Copies of the treaty in the Dutch and Spanish languages, together with a Memorandum of Understanding in the Dutch language, have been sent under separate cover to L/ARA and ARA/CAR in the Department and to the American Embassies at The Hague and Caracas. An English version will become available in connection with the deposit at a later date at the United Nations.

Decontrol after May 1, 1984.

PENBERTHY



LIMITED OFFICIAL USE